



If You Encounter a Black Bear



- If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand still, enjoy the moment, then quietly move away.
- If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run. Running may trigger a chase response.
- If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms, and yell "Hey bear!" until it leaves. Always stay with your group. If the bear keeps approaching, use bear spray.
- If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead. Instead, fight back aggressively.

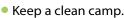
Fishing and Hunting

- You are more likely to encounter bears when moving quietly and when traveling early and late in the day.
- Follow tips for hiking and camping safely.
- Harvested animals and fishing bait may attract bears.
- If a bear beats you to your catch or kill, don't try to reclaim it. Leave the area when it is safe to do so.

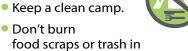
Cycling and Jogging

If you travel quickly or quietly, you can easily surprise bears. Music and phones are distracting. Stay aware of your surroundings and make noise periodically.

Camping



your fire ring or grill.



- Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent. Store in approved bear-resistant containers OR out of sight in a locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. Local storage regulations vary.
- Cook downwind and as far from your tent as possible.
- Set up backcountry camps away from dense cover and natural food sources.



Learn more at BEARWISE.ORG



Black bear is a species. Their colors include black, brown, and cinnamo

Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears

BearWise® CREATED BY BEAR BIOLOGISTS, SUPPORTED BY STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES © 2022



Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.